

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1943.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The death-rate for the town is greater than that of the county generally. On first looking at the analysis of all causes, it would appear that the numbers given for "Heart Disease" and "Intracranial Vascular Lesions" are very high. It must not be supposed that this shows any increase in acute heart conditions—by far the largest number of cases occurring in the high age groups. For instance, two female deaths occurred at the age of 84; in each case the cause was given as "Cardio-Vascular Disease" and one is further qualified by "Rheumatic Fever (acquired in childhood)." It is interesting to realise that out of the deaths occurring in the town—apart from those occurring in Institutions—that care for the "chronic sick" and senile. Seventy-seven of the total deaths occurred in the age groups above 70; 41 above 70; 22 above 80; and 4 above 90; 40% of the total.

The death-rate of infants under 1 year of age is higher also than the average for the county. The deaths occurring from prematurity and Congenital Malformations remain the same as in the previous year, the other causes being mainly chest conditions.

The Live and Still Birth-rate are approximately the same as those of England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—There were, throughout the year, several cases of Scarlet Fever. These were of an exceedingly mild type, offering great difficulty in differential diagnosis in certain cases. It was obvious that the infection was being carried on by cases so mild that parents could not suspect the presence of Scarlet Fever, and so cannot be blamed for not seeking medical advice.

Measles.—A minor epidemic of this disease affected the town. Again, many cases occurred in which the parents, knowing that their children had run the risk of infection, did not

trouble to call in a doctor, and so the figures of cases notified do not cover all the children affected. The large majority were of the young age groups. There were not many with complications. Two deaths occurred.

Diphtheria.—Thanks to the acceptance willingly by a large number of parents of the Immunisation Scheme carried out by the County Medical Officer, there was no cause for anxiety when a total of 4 cases occurred throughout the year. No contact cases resulted.

In studying the number of children immunised, it is satisfactory to note that the number of pre-school children brought forward keeps up, while naturally that of school children decreases. In 1942 the continuation of cases started in 1941, as well as those completely immunised in the year, gave a large total of school children covered, while the pre-school children came to well over 300.

In 1943, as a large proportion of pre-school children already immunised moved in to school, and the very large number of children in schools already had been covered, the figures dropped considerably for school children.

The numbers for pre-school children still kept up, but again children in 2—5 age groups had been covered largely in 1941 and 1942. The number actually done stood in good proportion to the number of births in 1942.

In very few cases now is persuasion required. By far the largest number of parents enquire “when it can be done.”

Puerperal Pyrexia.—The number of cases is high; none of the cases were serious ones. The large majority cleared up within a very few days.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS: BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

LIVE BIRTHS:			M.		F.		Total.
Total	...	...	105	...	124	...	229
Legitimate	...	...	98	...	118	...	216
Illegitimate	...	...	7	...	6	...	13
STILL BIRTHS:							
All Legitimate	...	...	1	...	6	...	7

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

				M.	F.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...		0	0	0
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...		0	2	2
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	0	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	0	1	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	2	4	6
10.	Measles	...	...	2	0	2
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis : Polio-Encephalitis			0	0	0
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	0	0	0
13.	Cancer of Mouth, Oesophagus and Uterus	...	...	2	3	5
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...		4	0	4
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	0	4	4
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	...	...	6	10	16
17.	Diabetes	...	...	1	0	1
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	6	16	22
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	20	30	50
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	1	1	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	6	12	18
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	3	2	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	0	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...		1	0	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...		0	0	0
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	0	0	0
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	8	1	9
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortional Sepsis			0	0	0
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	0	0	0
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	4	4	8
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...		2	3	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	1	1	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	2	0	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	1	2	3
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	10	12	22
Total				85	110	195

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

					M.		F.		Total.
Total	...	...	...	...	9	...	8	...	17
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	7	...	7	...	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
DEATH RATE	...	...	...	...	13.3 per 1000 population				
Compare Death Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	12.1	„	„	„	„
LIVE BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	...	16.48 per 1000 population				
Compare Live Birth Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	16.5	„	„	„	„
STILL BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	...	.50 per 1000 population				
Compare Still Birth Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	.51	„	„	„	„
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR	...	...	...	...	74 per 1000 Live Births				
Compare ditto England and Wales	...	...	...	...	49	„	„	„	„

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Scarlet Fever	35
Whooping Cough	3
Diphtheria	4
Erysipelas	2
Smallpox	0
Measles	134
Pneumonia	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	10

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